82. Al-'Afuww (The Pardoner)

"Allah's pardon comes even before your asking, and extends beyond what you imagine possible. The ocean of divine forgiveness makes a mountain of sin appear as a pebble."

- Rabia al-Adawiyya (717-801 CE)
Source: Recorded in Attar's "Tadhkirat al-Awliya"

Allah will forgive the person who says this Beautiful Name excessively
- Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-A'FUWWﷻ (THE PARDONER ﷻ)

Al-A'fw means to 'leave' and 'to overlook'. A'fuwwu refers to one who forgives in great abundance and overlooks. Forgiveness can only take place from one who has the power (to punish). If one does not have power, then his forgiveness has no value. This is referred to as helplessness.

Imaam Haleemee ﷺ states, "Al-Afuww ﷻ is that Being who removes from His servants the burdens and effects of their sins. He ﷻ overlooks these actions i.e. He ﷻ does not take full reckoning of these actions. This happens due to one of the following: a.) after they sin, they become repentant and seek forgiveness b.) they leave out certain things for Allaah ﷻ's pleasure which is greater than the evil they committed - thus Allaah ﷻ wipes out their evil action due to the blessings of the righteous action c.) they receive the intercession of those who intercede on their behalf d.) He ﷻ does this in honour of those who are honoured in His sight. e.) He ﷻ does this as a recompense for their good actions.

Forgiveness is granted by Al-A'fuww ﷻ when a servant seeks forgiveness from His sins, and, solely for Allaah ﷻ's pleasure, abstains from those major sins which people are involved in. (Together with this, he engages in noble actions.) The result of this is that these noble actions become an expiator of sins which were committed in the past. Besides this, sins are forgiven by intercession of those who are prepared to intercede on behalf of sinners.

Imaam Sa'dee ﷺ states, "Al-A'fuww ﷻ is that Being who was and is known for His quality of forgiveness and who is characterized by forgiving and pardoning His servants. Every person is dependent on His quality of forgiveness and pardoning, just as they are dependent on His

quality of mercy and kindness. He ﷻ has promised to forgive and pardon those who carry out those actions which will lead to forgiveness.

Allaah ﷻ declares in this regard,

وَاِنِّیْ لَغَفَّارٌ لِّمَنْ تَابَ وَاٰمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا ثُمَّ اهْتَدٰی

Verily I forgive those who repent, believe and perform noble actions, then stay on the straight path. (Tahaa)

The highest extent of the forgiveness granted by Al-A'fuwwu ﷻ is made apparent when a servant sins excessively, oppressing himself, and then realizes his sin. He thus turns to Allaah ﷻ repentant. Allaah ﷻ will immediately forgive all his sins (without ever boasting of His favours). Allaah ﷻ says,

قُلْ یَا عِبَادِیَ الَّذِیْنَ اَسْرَفُوْا عَلٰی اَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوْا مِنْ رَّحْمَةِ اللّٰهِ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ یَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوْبَ جَمِیْعًا اِنَّه هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِیْمُ

Say, "O my servants who have oppressed themselves, do not lose hope in the mercy of Allaah ﷻ. Verily Allaah ﷻ forgives all sins. Verily He ﷻ is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Zumur)

If His quality of forgiveness and tolerance were not to a perfect degree, then no living creature would have remained in existence, as Allaah ﷻ proclaims,

وَلَوْ یُؤَاخِذُ اللّٰهُ النَّاسَ بِظُلْمِهِمْ مَّا تَرَکَ عَلَیْهَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ وَّلٰکِنْ یُّؤَخِّرُهُمْ اِلٰی اَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّی فَاِذَا جَاء اَجَلُهُمْ لاَ یَسْتَاْخِرُوْنَ سَاعَةً وَّلَا یَسْتَقْدِمُوْنَ

If Allaah ﷻ had to take people to task due to their oppression, He would not have left any moving creature on the surface of the earth. However He grants respite till a specified time. When their time arrives, there will be no delay, nor advancement for a single moment. (Nahl)

This is the level of His forebearance. The demand of His wisdom and expedience is that, despite witnessing people disobeying Him, He ﷻ does not snatch His bounty away and commence immediate

punishment. If He ﷻ had to initiate punishment the minute one committed a sin, then due to widespread disbelief, polytheism, oppression and sin, no living being would have remained on the face of the earth. When evil becomes widespread, even pious people are destroyed in this general punishment, even though they will be saved from punishment in the hereafter.

Despite possessing complete power over all of creation, Allaah ﷻ forgives His servants. He ﷻ has declared this quality of His in the following verse,

اِنْ تُبْدُوْا خَيْرًا اَوْ تُخْفُوْهُ اَوْ تَعْفُوْا عَنْ سُوْءٍ فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ كَانَ عَفُوًّا قَدِيْرًا

If you openly do good or conceal it, or if you overlook evil, then Allaah ﷻ is Oft-Forgiving, All Powerful. (Nisaa)